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## FOLK-LORE SCRAP-BOOK.

**GYPSY QUEEN IN AMERICA.**—From the “Notes and Queries” of the *Journal of the Gypsy-Lore Society*, No. 3, we take the following paragraph, which it is natural to regard with a certain scepticism. There is a field for studies of gypsy life in America, and this journal will be glad to receive and print notes of such studies. Probably every gypsy family could furnish something of interest.

“One of the most picturesque ceremonies of gypsy life has just taken place near Dayton, Ohio. This ceremony consisted of the coronation of Matilda II. as Queen of the American Gypsies. The gypsies in this country, says a telegraph correspondent, have been controlled for many years by four families, the Stanleys, Coopers, Harrisons, and Jeffreys. These families came here from England in 1859. Stanley, known as Sugar Stanley, the principal member of the first-mentioned family, was made king of all the tribes. At his death his daughter Hagar became queen. Dying in 1874, she was succeeded by her sister, who was proclaimed Matilda I., but she only lived to reign six years. The succession fell to Jeannette, granddaughter of King Sugar, who is succeeded by Matilda, another granddaughter of King Sugar Stanley, whose succession is now being celebrated. She is only seventeen years old, is 5 feet 7 inches in height, has a graceful figure, and is a very interesting personage. At her coronation she wore a red silk dress; her hair hung down loosely behind, gathered in the centre with a crimson ribbon, which set off her dark brown hair. Queen Matilda is the absolute ruler of all the Romany tribes in America; her decrees must **absolutely be obeyed** without question.”—*Ayrshire Argus*, 2d Nov., 1888.

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NOTES AND QUERIES.

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN FOLK-LORE SOCIETY.**—According to appointment of the council, the annual meeting of the American Folk-Lore Society will take place at Philadelphia, on the Friday following Thanksgiving day. By the kind invitation of the Provost of the University of Pennsylvania, the meeting will be held at the University. There will be a morning and an afternoon session; if the Society should see fit, the meeting may be continued on Saturday.

On the same days the College Association of the Middle States will meet at the University. At the evening session the presidential address will be delivered by Provost Pepper. By courtesy of the authorities of the University, the members of the American Folk-Lore Society are invited to be present at the evening session.

During the two sessions of the American Folk-Lore Society on Friday papers will be read. Those members who intend to present papers are requested to send abstracts, together with a statement of the length of the

paper, at least six weeks before the meeting, to the Secretary, in order that they may be referred to the Committee on Arrangements, with a view of preparing a programme. The committee consists of D. G. Brinton, M. D., chairman ; Prof. W. F. Allen, Prof. T. F. Crane, Prof. Horatio Hale, and Prof. Otis T. Mason.

MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN FOLK-LORE SOCIETY IN THE VICINITY OF BOSTON. — A local meeting of members of the Society, for the purpose of hearing reports and exchanging opinions, was held in the Chapel of Boston University, on May 4. The lateness of the date does not permit more than a brief mention of what proved to be a most successful and enjoyable occasion. Col. T. W. Higginson, who occupied the chair, spoke of the objects of the Society, as part of the modern tendency to humanize history, and make the record of the past vivid and intelligible. The Secretary set forth the ends sought to be attained by the "Journal of American Folk-Lore," and urged the necessity of activity in the collection of the traditions of the Indian tribes, in order that posterity might not be left to deal with insoluble problems. Prof. J. W. Bergen showed the great mass of ungathered folk-lore in the United States, where not hundreds but thousands of items might be gathered in every country village. The same superstitions were found to exist in many parts of the world, and the questions to which these correspondences gave rise could only be answered by a complete collection. Dr. Harris, of Concord, Mass., spoke of the interest attaching to the rhymes which children use for "counting-out." Remarks were made by Messrs. H. E. Scudder, O. B. Frothingham, P. S. Moxom, of Boston, and others. Mr. Sylvester Baxter spoke of the ethnological value of folk-lore, as shown by the experience of Mr. Cushing in connection with the Hemenway exploring expedition. There being a general consent as to the interest of the conversation, it was proposed to hold monthly meetings during the winter ; and a committee was appointed to carry into effect the suggestion.

AMERICAN DIALECT SOCIETY. — A meeting was held at Cambridge, Mass., in Sever Hall, Harvard University, on March 13th, to consider the formation of a society for the study of English dialects in America. A society for this purpose was formed, with the following officers : President, Prof. F. J. Child (Harvard University) ; Vice-president, Prof. J. M. Hart (University of Cincinnati) ; Secretary, Prof. Edward S. Sheldon (Harvard University) ; Editing Committee, as colleagues of the Secretary, Prof. G. L. Kittredge (Harvard University), and Prof. Sylvester Primer (College of Charleston) ; Executive Committee, together with the officers named, Profs. F. D. Allen (Harvard University), B. I. Wheeler (Cornell University), and C. F. Smith (Vanderbilt University).

According to the constitution adopted, the name of the society is to be The American Dialect Society, and its object is defined as "the investigation of the spoken English of the United States and Canada, and incidentally of other non-aboriginal dialects spoken in the same countries." The executive committee are empowered to appoint local secretaries, who